

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:

a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface;

an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and disposed on the soft magnetic member; and

a conductive member disposed on said soft magnetic member on an opposite side of a placement of the antenna coil,

wherein an object with said reader/writer antenna affixed thereon is a metal member or a member which contains the metal member.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A reader/writer antenna according to Claim 1 wherein the antenna coil is wound in a spiral manner.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A reader/writer antenna according to Claim 1 wherein the soft magnetic member is formed to contact a part of an antenna coil surface defined planarly by the one turn of the antenna coil so that a magnetic flux which is generated by the antenna coil is formed asymmetrically with reference to a center axis of the antenna coil.

Claims 4-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:

a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface; and
an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and is disposed on the soft magnetic member,
wherein a thickness t for the soft magnetic member or a magnetic core for forming a plate satisfies a relationship $S/L > tS/(L/\mu)$ under condition that S indicates an area for the antenna coil, L indicates a circumferential length of the antenna coil, and μ indicates a magnetic transmittance ratio of the soft magnetic member or the magnetic core.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A reader/writer antenna according to Claim 1 wherein the soft magnetic member is a compound of either a metal powder, a flake or a ferrite powder, which are formed by flattening a metal powder.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:
a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface; and
an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and disposed on the soft magnetic member,
wherein the soft magnetic member is a compound of either a metal powder, a flake or a ferrite powder, which are formed by flattening a metal powder, ~~and~~
wherein the metal powder is one of a carbonyl iron powder, a reduced iron powder, an atomized powder, or an amorphous powder, and
the reader/writer antenna is configured to be disposed so as to contact a casing which is formed by a non-magnetic member which has an initial resistance of approximately $10 \times 10^{-8} \Omega\text{m}$ or lower.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:

a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface; and

an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and disposed on the soft magnetic member,

wherein the soft magnetic member is a compound of either a metal powder, a flake or a ferrite powder, which are formed by flattening a metal powder, ~~and~~

wherein the metal powder or the flake ~~is a flake which~~ is made by flattening a water-atomized iron base alloy or an iron base alloy powder mechanically, and

the reader/writer antenna is configured to be disposed so as to contact a casing which is formed by a non-magnetic member which has an initial resistance of approximately $10 \times 10^{-8} \Omega\text{m}$ or lower.

Claim 12 (Original): A reader/writer antenna according to Claim 11 wherein the iron base alloy contains 6 w% to 15 w% of silicon.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:

a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface; and

an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and disposed on the soft magnetic member,

wherein the soft magnetic member is a compound of either a metal powder, a flake or a ferrite powder, which are formed by flattening a metal powder,

wherein the metal powder or the flake is made by flattening a water-atomized iron base alloy or an iron base alloy powder mechanically, and A reader/writer antenna according to Claim 11 wherein

the iron base alloy contains at least approximately 1 w% of aluminum or lower, approximately 3 w% of nickel or copper or lower, approximately 5 w% of chromium or lower, approximately 10 w% of cobalt or lower in addition to approximately 6 w% to 15 w% of silicon.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:

a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface; and

an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and disposed on the soft magnetic member,

wherein the soft magnetic member is a compound of either a metal powder, a flake or a ferrite powder, which are formed by flattening a metal powder, and

wherein the compound is an injection molded member, a compressed molded member, a rolled stripped member, or a member to which a painting member is applied.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A reader/writer antenna according to any of Claims [[1-5]] 1-3, wherein the soft magnetic member is one of an amorphous alloy, a permalloy, a magnetic steel, a silicon steel, a sendust alloy, a Fe-AL alloy, or a soft magnetic ferrite.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A reader/writer antenna according to Claim 1 wherein the soft magnetic member is an amorphous film or a layered member of an amorphous film.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:
a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface of an object; and
an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and is disposed on the soft magnetic member,

wherein a non-magnetic conductive member of which resistivity is approximately $10 \times 10^{-8} \Omega\text{m}$ or lower or a conductive member of which resistivity is approximately $3 \times 10^{-8} \Omega\text{m}$ is configured to be disposed between the soft magnetic member and the object.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:
a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface of an object; and
an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and is disposed on the soft magnetic member,

wherein a non-magnetic conductive member has a 0.015Ω resistance or lower with 1 cm length, 1 cm width, and is configured to be disposed between the soft magnetic member and the object.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:
a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface;

an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and disposed on the soft magnetic member; and

a conductive member disposed on said soft magnetic member on an opposite side of a placement of the antenna coil, A reader/writer

wherein the reader/writer antenna ~~according to any one of Claims 1-3, 8-14, and 16-19~~ is configured to be disposed so as to contact a casing which is formed by a non-magnetic member which has an initial resistance of approximately $10 \times 10^{-8} \Omega\text{m}$ or lower.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A reader/writer antenna which is used with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for non-contacting data communication comprising:

a soft magnetic member configured to be disposed on a surface; and

an antenna coil which is formed by at least one turn and disposed on the soft magnetic member,

wherein the antenna coil is wound in a spiral manner, and said antenna is configured to be disposed so as to contact a casing made of a conductive member which has 0.015Ω or lower resistance.